

Members of the FCC Commission

My name is Bill Wells, I'm the Vice President/General Manager of the Des Moines Radio Group which includes KSTZ-FM, KIOA-FM, KLTI-FM, KAZR-FM, KRNT-AM & KPSZ-AM in Des Moines, Iowa. I am also the current President of the Iowa Broadcasters Association. I'm filing comments today regarding the FCC's localism concerns, MB Docket #04-233. We have a staff of 57 full time employees, 25 part time employees and 10 college student interns and they are all dedicated to serving our local community! In addition to the long form, 30 minute broadcasts we air each week on each station which are locally produced and involve local citizens discussing local issues we are involved with a long list of local, community and charity events. This past weekend, all of our stations were involved in the "Race for the Cure" drawing over 15,000 people from central Iowa to raise money to fight breast cancer. In two weeks we will be involved with a food drive to collect non-perishable food for the Food Bank of Iowa. Last year we raised over 210,000 pounds of food to feed those less fortunate during the cold winter months in Iowa. Our goal this year is 250,000 pounds. This event local high schools, universities, businesses, hospitals, unions and the Iowa National Guard. Currently, one of my FM's, KIOA, is involved in a local event called "Shoes That Fit". Obviously, this charitable event collects shoes and clothing items for less fortunate children. We will help hundreds of kids in our community. Our stations are hugely involved with the community during the holidays with the "Festival Of Trees & Lights" to benefit the Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines, "Jolly Holiday Lights" where we raised \$209,520 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Night Eyes at the Des Moines Zoo an event that raised over a \$100,000 for the Blank Children's Hospital and provided a safe Halloween event for children in our community. Other local things we do include blood drives for the Blood Bank of Central Iowa, "Kidfind" at the Iowa State Fair to help lost children become reunited with their families. Radiothons for the Children's Hospital of Iowa where we've raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for children in our community and the surrounding area. Amber Alerts to help recover missing children. Daily weather and traffic reports to inform the people in our community of conditions that effect their lives. Local news that informs our listeners of what's going on in our community and our state. If you investigated how important local radio is to the people of the state of Iowa I think you would realize how serious we take our pledge to "serve the public". Maybe that's why Iowa boasts a 95%+ voter registration rate. It maybe because Iowa broadcasters are involved and concerned about their local communities. I invite you to come visit my community or any other in Iowa and see for yourself, how involved we are in our communities. Sincerely, William V. Wells, The Des Moines Radio Group & The Iowa Broadcasters Association.